

THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

TO S/S-O FOR  
LDX TO WH:  
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COPIES TO:

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D MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
P

M From: Alexander M. Haig, Jr.  
C

S/S Subject: FY 1982 Refugee Consultations  
S/S-S

TMA

TMB SUMMARY

TMC

EA The Refugee Act of 1980 requires that the Administration  
PA consult with the House and Senate Judiciary Committees con-  
S/P cerning refugee admissions in the coming fiscal year. Your  
M/MO approval is needed for the proposed levels on which your  
RP representative will consult.  
RF(rs)

BACKGROUND

In light of Congressional concerns, our goal for FY 1982 is to minimize refugee admissions, thereby reducing the domestic and political costs of the program, while at the same time demonstrating to our Southeast Asian allies our continued reliability. While Secretary Schweiker favors a lower ceiling for Asian refugees, he agrees with the Attorney General and me on an overall admissions ceiling of 40,000 for non-Asian refugees.

DISCUSSION

ASIA: The Attorney General and I believe that the Asian refugee admissions ceiling for FY 1982 should be 120,000 (48,000 below the initial FY 1981). Any level lower than that would signal to countries of first asylum a decrease in U.S. support, and would threaten a return to boat push-offs and forced repatriation. The lowered ceiling takes into account domestic sensitivities and the need to maintain essential Congressional support. We would utilize this authority only as necessary to meet foreign policy and humanitarian goals.

Secretary Schweiker supports an adjustable level of 96,000 Asian refugees depending on success achieved in decreasing their impact on already-impacted States and localities. He feels the FY 1982 budget will be insufficient to finance assistance to 120,000 Asians at current

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levels since welfare dependency rates are sharply higher than assumed in the budget. Moreover, he notes that additional costs--such as housing, schools, and public services--must be assumed by State and local budgets. The Attorney General and I recommend that the level of assistance for the refugees be reduced rather than the number of refugees.

SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE: A consultation level of 20,000 for Soviet Jews or Armenians is proposed. Continuing restrictive Soviet policies are likely to result in actual admissions of only 10-12,000. By maintaining the higher ceiling, however, we avoid signaling any acquiescence in these restrictive policies. Proposed consultation level of 9,500 for Eastern Europe will likely be close to actual admissions.

NEAR EAST AND SOUTHWEST ASIA: A regional ceiling of 5,500 admissions, comprised principally of Afghans and Iraqi Christians is recommended.

AFRICA: As the U.S. provides a major portion of refugee care and maintenance in Africa, not more than 3,000 will require resettlement in this country.

LATIN AMERICA: A ceiling of 2,000 is proposed. Restrictive emigration policies by some Latin American countries will hold admissions to 2,000 or fewer in FY 1982.

#### Decision 1 - Asian Refugee Admissions

Option A: The Attorney General and I recommend that you authorize consultations on the admission of up to 120,000 Asian refugees.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Option B: Secretary Schweiker recommends that you authorize consultations on the admission of up to 96,000 Asian refugees.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

#### Decision 2 - Non-Asian Refugee Admissions

The Attorney General, Secretary Schweiker and I recommend that you authorize consultations on the admission of up to 40,000 non-Asian refugees.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_